

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 CAB-02 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 HA-05
SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-08 AID-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 /116 W
-----096094 151259Z /40

R 150810Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8175

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT, PDEV, SU

SUBJ: NIMEIRI TAKES OVER SUDAN AIRWAYS, ELECTRIC AND
WATER CORPORATIONS

1. IN DRAMATIC GESTURE AIMED AT RESTORING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
IN GOVERNMENT AND IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES, NIMEIRI HAS
TAKEN OVER MANAGEMENT OF SUDAN AIRWAYS AND LOCAL ELECTRICITY
AND WATER COMPANY. NIMEIRI ISSUED PROVISIONAL DECREE ON
AUGUST 12 TRANSFERRING SUPERVISION OF SUDAN AIRWAYS FROM
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE. NIMEIRI RECENTLY
TOOK OVER DEFENSE PORTFOLIO. HE ALSO ISSUED SECOND DECREE
BRINGING CORPORATION FOR ELECTRICITY AND WATER (CEWA)
UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF PRESIDENT.

2. NIMEIRI MET WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF CORPORATION FOR
ELECTRICITY AND WATER ON AUGUST 12, ACCORDING SUNA, TO
EXPLAIN REASONS FOR HIS TAKE-OVER. ACCOMPANIED BY LEGAL
ADVISER DR. YOUSIF MICHAEL, NIMEIRI TOLD SENIOR OFFICIALS,
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UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND SUDAN SOCIALIST UNION (SSU)
LEADERS OF CEWA THAT CORPORATION WAS UNABLE TO COPE
WITH "PRESENT ECONOMIC LEAP" IN SUDAN DESPITE QUALIFIED
AVAILABLE STAFF. HE SAID WISE LEADERSHIP AND LOYAL STAFF
ARE AS NECESSARY AS RATIONAL ADMINISTRATION. SUNA
QUOTED NIMEIRI AS STATING THAT TRAINING, ACCOMMODATIONS
AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR CEWA STAFF ARE PREREQUISITES FOR

OPERATION. HE CRITICIZED CEWA'S ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 1975 WHICH OMITTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES AND LONG-RANGE PLANNING. NIMEIRI SCHEDULED SECOND MEETING AUGUST 13 AT PEOPLE'S PALACE TO DISCUSS DRAFT BILL OF AMENDED ACT FOR CEWA. HE SAID HE WILL CONTINUE MEETING WITH CEWA UNTIL WORKING PLAN IS DRAWN UP TO REMOVE ALL OBSTACLES THAT BLOC CEWA'S PATH TO PROGRESS.

3. COMMENT: IMMEDIATE REASON FOR NIMEIRI' TAKE-OVER OF CEWA IS RESIGNATION OF 75 TECHNICIANS TWO WEEKS AGO IN PROTEST AGAINST CEWA POLICIES AND CONSEQUENT POWER OUTAGES SEVERAL TIMES DAILY. EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT NIMEIRI'S FORCEFUL PRESENCE AND SPECIAL ATTENTION WILL PROBABLY BRING ABOUT BETTER PERFORMANCE WITHIN SHORT TIME. POLITICALLY SAVVY, HE WILL RELINQUISH PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE PERMANENT DEFICIENCIES OF CORPORATIONS BECOME SELF-EVIDENT. ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR TWO NOTORIOUS AND BOTHER-SOME FAILURES IS DRAMATIC PART OF NIMEIRI'S CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC MORALE AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF HIS REGIME. NOTE: BOTH SUDAN AIRWAYS AND CEWA ARE NATIONAL CORPORATIONS WHOSE PERFORMANCES ARE MORE CRIPPLING IN THE PROVINCES THAN IN KHARTOUM.
BOGOSIAN

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